

## **Publishing Notice of Receipt of Captive-Bred Wildlife Registration Applications**

### ***Questions and Answers***

#### **What is a captive-bred wildlife (CBW) registration?**

In 1979, the Service published the captive-bred wildlife (CBW) regulations to streamline federal permitting requirements and facilitate the breeding of endangered and threatened species for conservation purposes by establishing a registration program. Under the CBW program, otherwise prohibited activities, such as interstate commerce, are authorized, but only when the activities can be shown to enhance the propagation or survival of the species. Registrants of the CBW program must provide a written annual report with information on activities including births, deaths, and transfers of specimens.

To learn more about the CBW program, visit <http://www.fws.gov/international/pdf/reg.pdf>. For a copy of the CBW application, visit here: <http://www.fws.gov/forms/3-200-41.pdf>.

#### **How will the new regulations change the CBW registration process?**

If adopted, the new regulations will add procedural requirements to how the Service processes applications for registration under the CBW. During the review of a CBW registration application, the Service will publish a notice in the Federal Register informing the public that it has received an application for CBW registration. The public will then have 30 days to provide comments on the application. If the Service determines that the registration should be granted, the agency will again notify the public by publishing its decision in the Federal Register.

#### **Will these new procedures add to the amount of time that it takes to process a CBW registration application?**

While the publication of the receipt of a CBW registration application will increase the processing time for the application by approximately 35 days, the Service does not believe that this increase in processing time will adversely affect the potential CBW registrant's conservation work. In addition, in the event of an emergency situation where the health or life of a protected species is threatened and no reasonable alternative is available to the applicant, this 30-day public comment period could be waived by the Service.

#### **Will the new regulations apply to current CBW registrants?**

Yes. If adopted, these procedures will apply to both original and renewal applications for registration, as well as applications for amendment of a registration. However, current CBW

registrants should not be concerned about a lapse in their registration as long as renewal applications are submitted at least 30 days before the expiration of the current CBW authorization and the registration is in good standing (i.e., annual reports have been submitted and the registration is not suspended).

### **Why is it necessary to open a public comment period for CBW registration applications?**

By opening a public comment period, the Service intends to increase transparency and openness in the CBW registration process, consistent with Executive Order (13576), which encourages government agencies to establish a system of transparency, public participation, and collaboration by sharing information with the public. In addition, the Service believes that increased public participation in the CBW registration process will lead to better decisions by helping the Service to assess whether applicants are capable of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species.

### **Will the Service publish personal information about CBW registration applicants?**

Notices published in the Federal Register will include the name, city and state, and a very brief description of the proposed activities. Additional information including original application materials, renewal applications, and recent annual reports will be released only upon request. However, the records for individuals requesting CBW registrations are contained in a Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) system of records. Therefore, information protected under the Privacy Act, such as personal information or street address, will not be released to the public.